

## Lab to State Detail Information

Lab to State 2.0 is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed application, and is compliant with EPA electronic reporting standards in the Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Regulation (CROMERR). CROMERR provides the framework for electronic reporting under all of the EPA's environmental regulations, and ODW must comply with this standard. Information on CROMERR can be found at the EPA website:

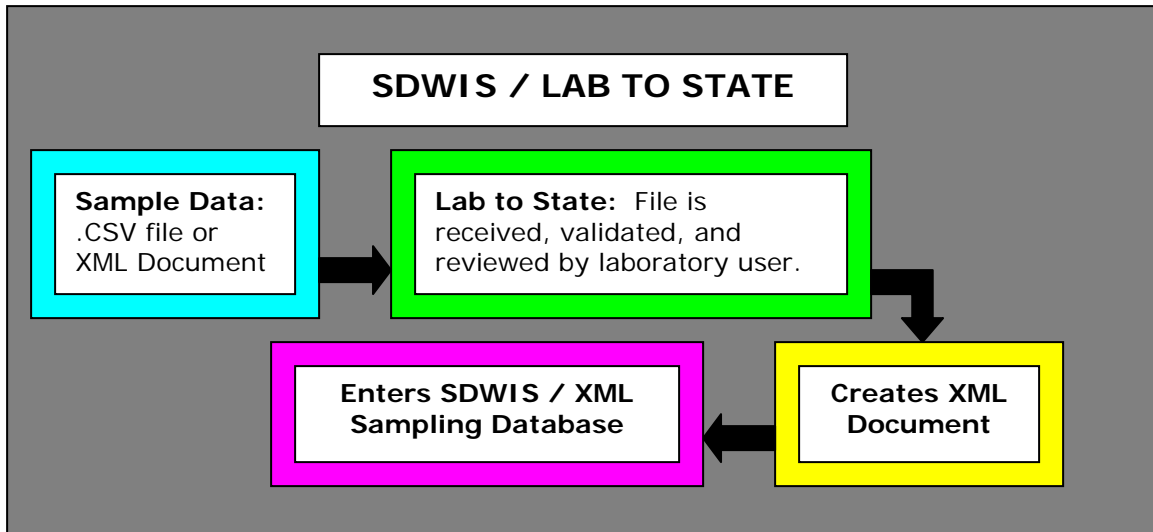
<http://www.epa.gov/cromerr/about.html>

The Lab to State reporting system (LTS) is a web-based system that allows laboratories to submit electronic reports directly to the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water's SDWIS database.

The LTS system provides an alternative to submitting hand-written or paper-based reports that is faster, more efficient, and requires less processing for laboratories and the staff at the Office of Drinking Water. As a fully operational electronic reporting system, all of the necessary legal, security, and electronic signature functionalities have been included to serve as a completely paperless reporting system.

LTS assists laboratories with formatting, validating, and submitting sample data to ODW. LTS receives sample data formatted as Comma Separated Value (CSV) files, or XML documents compatible with the XML SDWIS schemas. A .CSV template has been created for laboratory use. Laboratories are to use the .CSV template and instructions located at ODW's website at

[http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinkingwater/documents/lts\\_templateinstructions.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinkingwater/documents/lts_templateinstructions.pdf). The format, content and order of the data in the .CSV file have been set by ODW to simplify the process for laboratories. Laboratories using the .CSV template must follow instructions provided and make no modifications to format and order of the data in order for the file to upload to LTS correctly. Once the file is uploaded and received, LTS validates the sample data against the published XML schemas and generates reports listing detected errors, if any.



### ***Reasons for and Benefits of Electronic Reporting with LTS***

Electronic reporting provides the following benefits:

- Gives the user greater control over the quality of data flow.
- Reduces reporting costs by offering a streamlined reporting method using readily available computer tools.
- Offers on-line availability of reports and their processing status.
- Improves reported data integrity and security.
- Adds to the overall effectiveness of the ODW program areas with faster response for data analyses, compliance assessment, and decision-making.
- Allows the ODW to perform behind-the-scenes evaluations (informal data audits) of laboratory data submissions with respect to laboratories approved for certification, effective certification dates to analyze for specified parameters, using specified methods and techniques.
- Electronic reporting will help waterworks in the following manner:
  - ❖ Reducing data entry errors and reducing potential violations due to time delay caused by mailing.
  - ❖ Verification and confirmation of results reported.